

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 12, 15, and 20 are currently amended; claims 4 and 21-24 are canceled; and claim 31 is added. The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments and added claim contained herein are fully supported by the Specification as originally filed and do not contain new matter.

Specification

The Specification was objected to because of an informality. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to the Specification overcomes the informality.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5, 12-19, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 12, 15, and 30, as currently amended, overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Applicant contends that claim 5 recites a functional relationship between the electronic component and the cover and therefore is not indefinite, so claim 5 should be allowed.

Claims 13 and 18 each recites that the wall and first and second end-panels are at least one of a pliant and a porous material. This means that the wall and first and second end-panels are a pliant or a porous material or both. Therefore, claims 13 and 18 are not indefinite and should be allowed.

Applicant contends that claims 14 and 19 respectively recite a functional relationship between the electronic component and the covers of claims 12 and 15 and therefore are not indefinite, so claims 14 and 19 should be allowed.

Applicant contends that claims 16-17 recite additional limitations of the cover of claim 15 and are not indefinite, so claims 16-17 should be allowed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7, 10-16, and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chien (U.S. Patent No. 6,168,249). Claims 1-5, 8-10, and 12-13 were rejected under 35

U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Steinberg (U.S. Patent No. 6,209,973). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 1, as currently amended, recites a first end-panel of a substantially pliant material that is removably attached to a wall or has a portion substantially permanently attached to the wall and another portion removably attached to the wall, and a second end-panel of a substantially pliant material opposite the first end-panel that is removably attached to the wall. The Examiner has taken a cloth covering 45 of Figure 8 of Chien as corresponding to the cover of claim 1. However, there is no indication in Chien that any of the panels of cloth covering 45 is removably attached or have a portion that is substantially permanently attached and another portion removably attached. Therefore, Chien does not include each and every element of claim 1, so claim 1 should be allowed over Chien.

Steinberg (Figures 2a, 2b, 12, 15, and 16) has a cover having a top panel 20, side panels 21, 22, and a back panel 106. A single door 54 is removably mounted to the cover (Figure 2b and column 4, lines 24-25) opposite back panel 106. In Figure 13, a flap 88 extends from the front of the top panel 20. The flap 88 can be integrally attached to the top panel 20 or attached by stitches or the like. Although not shown in Figure 13, flap 88 is opposite back panel 106. The top panel 20 and its respective side panels 21, 22, can be integral or, alternatively, stitched together (see column 2, lines 63-65). The back panel 106 can be integral with one or more of the attached panels or, alternatively, can be attached by stitches or the like (see column 5, lines 19-21). There is no indication that top panel 20, side panels 21, 22, or back panel 106 are removably attached. Therefore, Steinberg does not include each and every element of claim 1, so claim 1 should be allowed over Steinberg.

Claims 2-3 and 5-11 depend from claim 1 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-3 and 5-11 should be allowed. Claim 4 is canceled, mooted the rejection thereof.

Claim 12, as currently amended, recites a first end-panel that is one of substantially permanently or removably attached to a wall, and a second end-panel opposite the first end-panel, a portion of the second end panel substantially permanently attached to the wall and another portion removably attached to the wall. The Examiner has taken a cloth covering 45 of Figure 8 of Chien as corresponding to the cover of claim 1. However, there is no indication in

Chien that any of the panels of cloth covering 45 is removably attached to a wall or have a portion that is substantially permanently attached to a wall and another portion removably attached the wall. Therefore, Chien does not include each and every element of claim 12, so claim 12 should be allowed over Chien.

Steinberg (Figures 2a, 2b, 12, 15 and 16) has a cover having a top panel 20, side panels 21, 22, and a back panel 106. A single door 54 is removably mounted to the cover (Figure 2b and column 4, lines 24-25) opposite back panel 106. In Figure 13, a flap 88 extends from the front of the top panel 20. The flap 88 can be integrally attached to the top panel 20 or attached by stitches or the like. Although not shown in Figure 13, flap 88 is opposite back panel 106. The top panel 20 and its respective side panels 21, 22, can be integral or, alternatively, stitched together (see column 2, lines 63-65). The back panel 106 can be integral with one or more of the attached panels or, alternatively, can be attached by stitches or the like (see column 5, lines 19-21). There is no indication that top panel 20, side panels 21, 22, or back panel 106 have a portion that is substantially permanently attached and another portion that is removably attached. Therefore, Steinberg does not include each and every element of claim 12, so claim 12 should be allowed over Steinberg.

Claims 13-14 depend from claim 12 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 12. Therefore, claims 13-14 should be allowed.

Claim 15, as currently amended, recites a first end-panel that is removably attached to a wall, and a second end-panel opposite the first end-panel, a portion of the second end panel substantially permanently attached to the wall and another portion removably attached to the wall. The Examiner has taken a cloth covering 45 of Figure 8 of Chien as corresponding to the cover of claim 15. However, there is no indication in Chien that any of the panels of cloth covering 45 is removably attached or have a portion that is substantially permanently attached and another portion removably attached. Therefore, Chien does not include each and every element of claim 15, so claim 15 should be allowed over Chien.

Claims 16 and 18-19 depend from claim 15 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 15. Therefore, claims 16 and 18-19 should be allowed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 15-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinberg (U.S. Patent No. 6,209,973) in view of Chien (U.S. Patent No. 6,168,249). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 15, as currently amended, recites a first end-panel that is removably attached to a wall, and a second end-panel opposite the first end-panel, a portion of the second end panel substantially permanently attached to the wall and another portion removably attached to the wall. Steinberg (Figures 2a, 2b, 12, 15 and 16) has a cover having a top panel 20, side panels 21, 22, and a back panel 106. A single door 54 is removably mounted to the cover (Figure 2b and column 4, lines 24-25) opposite back panel 106. In Figure 13, a flap 88 extends from the front of the top panel 20. The flap 88 can be integrally attached to the top panel 20 or attached by stitches or the like. Although not shown in Figure 13, flap 88 is opposite back panel 106. The top panel 20 and its respective side panels 21, 22, can be integral or, alternatively, stitched together (see column 2, lines 63-65). The back panel 106 can be integral with one or more of the attached panels or, alternatively, can be attached by stitches or the like (see column 5, lines 19-21). There is no indication that top panel 20, side panels 21, 22, or back panel 106 have a portion that is substantially permanently attached and another portion that is removably attached. Therefore, Steinberg does not include each and every element of claim 15, so claim 15 is patentably distinct from Steinberg. Moreover, Steinberg in combination with Chien fails to overcome the deficiencies of Steinberg with respect to claim 15. Therefore, claim 15 is allowable over Steinberg in view of Chien.

Claims 16-19 depend from claim 15 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 15. Therefore, claims 16-19 should be allowed.

Claim 20, as currently amended, recites removably attaching at least a portion of a first end-panel of a substantially pliant material to a wall, and removably attaching at least a portion of a second end-panel of a substantially pliant material to the wall opposite the first end-portion. Steinberg (Figures 2a, 2b, 12, 15 and 16) has a cover having a top panel 20, side panels 21, 22, and a back panel 106. A single door 54 is removably mounted to the cover (Figure 2b and column 4, lines 24-25) opposite back panel 106. In Figure 13, a flap 88 extends from the front of the top panel 20. The flap 88 can be integrally attached to the top panel 20 or attached by

stitches or the like. Although not shown in Figure 13, flap 88 is opposite back panel 106. The top panel 20 and its respective side panels 21, 22, can be integral or, alternatively, stitched together (see column 2, lines 63-65). The back panel 106 can be integral with one or more of the attached panels or, alternatively, can be attached by stitches or the like (see column 5, lines 19-21). There is no indication that top panel 20, side panels 21, 22, or back panel 106 have any portion that is removably attached. Therefore, Steinberg does not include each and every element of claim 20, so claim 20 is patentably distinct from Steinberg. Moreover, Steinberg in combination with Chien fails to overcome the deficiencies of Steinberg with respect to claim 20. Therefore, claim 20 is allowable over Steinberg in view of Chien.

Claims 25-30 depend from claim 20 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 20. Therefore, claim 25-30 should be allowed. Claims 21-24 are canceled, mooted the rejection thereof.

Added Claims

Claim 31 has been added. Claim 31 depends from claim 20 and is thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 20. Therefore, claim 31 should be allowed. Applicant respectfully requests admittance and allowance of claim 31.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2208.

Respectfully submitted,

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